

*A Summary of
Hyderabad's War Effort
1939-44*

*Hyderabad, Deccan
Government Central Press
1944*

A Summary of Hyderabad's War Effort—1939-44

TWICE during the reign of His EXALTED HIGHNESS LT.-GENERAL NAWAB SIR MIR OSMAN ALI KHAN BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., G.B.E., NIZAM OF HYDERABAD AND BERAR, has the Title "FAITHFUL ALLY" of the King-Emperor been put to the proof in the fiery ordeal of war. The contribution made in 1914-18 by Hyderabad in World War I, forms a bright page in the history of the State. His Excellency Lord Wavell who visits Hyderabad as the Representative of the Crown had occasion during the course of the last war to praise the heroism of the forces sent from the premier Indian State in the country. In the days of peace that followed, His Exalted Highness showed deep interest in the welfare, training and discipline of the troops so that in the event of war against His Majesty's Government by any Foreign Power, the Ruler of Hyderabad could again vindicate his rôle as the "Faithful Ally."

When World War II broke out on September 3, 1939, and His Majesty was at war with Germany, the response from His Exalted Highness was prompt and unconditional, and Hyderabad set before itself the task of rendering aid to the British Government not only in the theatres of battle but also in mobilising the Home Front which is so vital to the successful prosecution of war. After five years of strenuous fighting, the allies are within sight of victory, and the Axis Powers are everywhere on the defensive. Of the outcome of the war there is no longer any doubt even among the leaders of the aggressor nations. When the story of World War II

and the part played by India is summed up, the contribution of Hyderabad will form another bright page in the annals of "Faithful Alliance." The spirit which inspired His Exalted Highness may be seen in the Manifesto issued by him on the outbreak of the war. Here is a short extract :

" I have informed the Viceroy that just as my ancestors had gone to the assistance of the British Government during crisis in the past, and just as I myself had tried to be of service in every way I could during the previous war of 1914, I was prepared, in exactly the same way, to do so again ; and that I considered this to be my duty in order that the true meaning and significance of the designation of "Faithful Ally" given to my House by the British Government might remain established before the eyes of the world."

Co-operation has been tendered in the warmest spirit and the record of Hyderabad's war effort is one of which she may be proud. Within the compass of this brochure only a short summary of Hyderabad's war effort can be given. Broadly it may be classified under six heads, namely, Financial Measures, Industrial and Technical Effort, Transport, Military Aid, Conservation of Civil Supplies including the Control of War Profiteers and the maintenance of Public *Morale*.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Hyderabad's financial contributions towards the successful prosecution of the war and the expenditure incurred, directly or indirectly, in connection therewith up to the end of September 1944, are given below :—

	O.S. Rs.
1. Contributions from His Exalted Highness' Privy Purse	16,33,333
2. Donations made by His Exalted Highness' Government	52,40,724
3. Monthly contribution at the rate of B.G. Rs. 1.5 lakhs per mensem	1,05,00,000

4.	Expenditure incurred in connection with War	O.S. Rs.
		4,67,52,000
5.	Investments in War Loans by His Exalted Highness' Government	50,23,00,000
6.	Indirect assistance	6,00,000
7.	Public contributions	54,81,093
	Total	57,79,07,150

Below are given details of the items mentioned above :—

1. *Contributions from His Exalted Highness' Privy Purse.*

(a)	For purchase of Flight Fighter Air Craft	B.G. Rs.
		8,00,000
(b)	H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund	6,00,000

14,00,000
or O.S. Rs.
16,33,333

2. *Donations made by His Exalted Highness' Government.*

		B.G. Rs.
(a)	Air Ministry	20,00,000
(b)	Admiralty	20,00,000
(c)	H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund	2,00,000
(d)	Indian Red Cross Society	1,00,000
(e)	Miscellaneous donations	1,92,000

44,92,000
or O.S. Rs.
52,40,724

3. *Monthly contributions at the rate of B.G. Rs. 1.5 lakhs per mensem.*

Since the beginning of the War, His Exalted Highness' Government have been contributing B.G. Rs. 1,50,000 every

month towards war expenditure. These contributions have, by the end of September 1944, totalled O.S. Rs. 1,05,00,000.

4. *Expenditure incurred in connection with War.*

	O.S. Rs.
(a) Expenditure on Units sent outside the Dominions	65,15,000
(b) Expenditure on Units raised in the Dominions to replace those sent out..	85,80,000
(c) Technical Training Schemes ..	14,00,000
(d) Compensation for lands acquired for military purposes	1,90,000
(e) Expenditure on establishment employed for War Work	22,00,000
(f) Cost of Internal Security Schemes ..	15,50,000
(g) Supply, Rationing and Allied Departments	25,00,000
(h) A.R.P. Schemes	66,57,000
(i) Dearness Allowance to low-paid Government servants	1,70,46,000
(j) Miscellaneous war expenditure ..	1,14,000

4,67,52,000

5. *Investments in War Loans by His Exalted Highness' Government.*

Investments in Government of India Loans stood at Rs. 20.11 crores in October, 1943. After a careful examination of their currency and financial position, His Exalted Highness' Government invested a further sum of Rs. 22.95 crores thus bringing the total investments in Government of India Loans to Rs. 43.06 crores which in Hyderabad currency is equivalent to Rs. 50.23 crores.

6. *Indirect Assistance.*

Indirect assistance has been given in various ways. To give a few instances, material imported into the Dominions for military purposes has been exempted from Customs duty. Rents of buildings and lands leased for Military purposes have not been charged. Supervision charges for the construction of Aerodromes and R.A.F. works have been waived. These exemptions and concessions are estimated at Rs. 60,00,000 since the beginning of the War.

7. *Public Contributions.*

	B.G. Rs.
(a) Hyderabad Hurricane Fund	20,46,000
(b) Hyderabad War Purposes Fund	20,68,386
(c) Amount advanced to Government employees for investment in Defence Bonds	
(i) Interest-free Bonds, Rs. 1,92,705	
(ii) 3% Defence Bonds, Rs. 8,000	5,82,965
(iii) Defence Savings Certificates, Rs. 3,82,260	
	<hr/>
	46,98,080
	or O.S. Rs.
	54,81,093
	<hr/>

ANTI-INFLATIONARY MEASURES

Just as in British India signs of inflation appeared in the wake of war expenditure, Hyderabad too, to a minor extent, had to face the difficulties which are inevitable in a period of abnormal consumption of service and material for the defence of the country.

Hyderabad has its own metallic and paper currency which has expanded during the War due to the increase in the volume of transactions, but has shown no signs of inflation. British Indian currency is used freely in the frontier districts, in the

Administered Areas and to some extent in all other districts. The economic life of Hyderabad is dependent on imports from British India and other States and exports thereto. The high prices of commodities due to war conditions have been responsible for an increase in the volume of the local currency and Hyderabad has not, therefore, been free from the financial and economic difficulties of the war.

His Exalted Highness' Government have been fully alive to the effect that inflation in India has been exercising on the currency position in the Dominions. They have, therefore, addressed themselves to the problem of increasing the volume of consumer goods by stimulating production, and, at the same time, mopping up surplus capital. To achieve this end, Government have already taken a number of important measures intended, directly or indirectly, to arrest the inflationary tendency.

A "Grow-More-Food" campaign has been launched and Government have spent about Rs. 84 lakhs during the last three years for increasing the production of food-stuffs, while a sum of Rs. 33,20,000 has been set apart for the same purpose during the current year (Oct. 1944-45). Efforts made in this direction have already yielded encouraging results—an increase of 16 per cent. over previous year's figures has been registered in the production of food-crops.

Measures designed to bring to the market food-stuffs and other essential commodities, including textiles and consumers' goods, hoarded by certain sections of the population, are in full swing. Regulations for the levy of excise duties on tobacco and vegetable ghee have been sanctioned. As a further step capital works programmes have been curtailed, only such works being undertaken as come under the category of "inescapable."

In order to check the growth of mushroom industrial or commercial concerns, a special Regulation known as the Hyderabad Companies (Amendment) Regulation has been promulgated and a new Rule has been added to the Defence of Hyderabad Rules. Under this Regulation, no banking company, whether registered in Hyderabad or elsewhere,

is allowed to start business without the previous sanction of Government.

The mopping up of surplus capital is accompanied by the levy of the Excess Profits Tax, the tax being restricted to business profits that exceed the minimum standard of Rs. 25,000 or the standard pre-war profits annually, whichever is greater. As no Income Tax is levied in Hyderabad the incidence of the Excess Profits Tax is adjusted to suit local conditions and a lower rate is adopted for the reason that industries in the State are not fully developed. The deposit system which is an important part of the Statute has for its object Compulsory Savings which will be available to industries and business after the war, the deposits being returnable within three years after the end of hostilities with simple interest at 2% per annum.

The battle against speculation and uneconomic flotations called for the fixing of maximum price of shares and the prohibition of transactions in shares against the delivery of blank transfer deeds. Equally important in Hyderabad's war effort has been the campaign to promote habits of thrift and saving among the people. A scheme of Postal Cash Certificates has been made available to the people and use is made of Co-operative Societies, Rural Reconstruction Societies, Women's Organisations and Post Offices to spread the message of thrift and saving. All persons whose income is above Rs. 6,000 per year come under the Compulsory Savings Scheme which is set at a sliding scale ranging from 4 % to 12½ % of the income, but relief is granted to war contributions and other approved Savings like India Defence Loans, Savings Certificates. The amounts deposited with the Government will bear interest at 2 % and will be repaid to the investor 2 years after the war or 5 years from the date of the promulgation of the Ordinance whichever is earlier. These anti-inflationary measures have had a marked effect on the war-time economy of Hyderabad.

In order to check anti-social activities, the system of the control of commodities has been introduced. Forward contracts in cotton, oil-seeds and several agricultural com-

modities has been forbidden. An Ordinance has been enforced to restrict the growth of groundnut and cotton. It provides for a surcharge of land revenue in respect of land under these Cash Crops at rates varying from 2 to 3 times the normal land revenue. The Ordinance also permits the levy of a tax on the sale of cotton and groundnut.

The war is still on, and the Government of His Exalted Highness realise that these measures alone will not be sufficient to curb inflationary tendencies. The measures already adopted by Hyderabad fall under two categories, namely, (i) Financial and Fiscal, and (2) Easing the market situation in respect of commodities. It would be necessary to follow these up, within the limitations imposed by war conditions, with a drive for the increased production of consumption goods for the civilian population. Given proper facilities there is ample scope for increased production in Hyderabad, and the Commerce and Industries Department of the State intend to order their requirements as soon as it is known that ships are available for the import of stores, machinery and plant.

INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL.

Soon after the outbreak of the war, H.E.H.'s Government recognised the necessity of exploiting to the fullest the industrial potentialities of the State both for war supplies and civil needs. An Adviser to the Commerce and Industries Member was appointed to deal with war supply problems and the aid of businessmen was sought through an advisory committee consisting of officials and non-officials. This body was found to serve a very useful purpose particularly in the early days of the war when the supply position in India was acute. It examined the problem of expanding industries and gave encouragement to private enterprises. A large variety of materials such as blankets, textiles, hospital equipment, army garments, buttons, tents and equipment, cigarettes, pressed steel parts for aircraft, army portable cookers, service knives and cutlery, etc., were manufactured and supplied. Through the medium of this organisation, constant touch was kept with the Supply Department of the Government

of India and Contract Directorates in Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay. The services of Government departments like the P.W.D., Jails, Forest and Excise were also utilised for the supply of materials they were capable of providing.

To illustrate the extent to which raw materials and manufactured goods were exported from Hyderabad during the war, it may be mentioned that some 13 crores worth of cement and coal were supplied as also some 10 crores worth of iron and steel parts, textiles, garments, tentage, wood-work, etc. This does not include the supply of many articles of which no record has been kept.

At the Eastern Group Conference held in 1940, at which the State was represented, the supply of essential materials for war purposes as well as for civilian consumption was reviewed. H.E.H.'s Government energetically followed the lead given at that conference and initiated development of industries relating to materials in short supply such as chemicals, glassware, sheet glass, starch and pressed metal and companies for the manufacture of these materials were floated in which the Government had 50 per cent interest.

A Scientific and Industrial Research Board was created to give impetus to industries for the utilisation of raw materials in the State. Research Committees dealing with Vegetable Oil Utilisation, Industrial Ferments, Pharmaceutical and Drugs, Fuel, Forest Products, Ceramic, Fibre Research and Heavy Chemicals were set up. These Committees have worked in close collaboration with similar bodies set up by the Indian Government and much work had been done to facilitate industrial expansion. The Industrial, Medical, University and other Laboratories of the State have all diverted their energies towards the solution of problems arising out of the war supply work and a fuller utilisation of local raw materials for civil supplies.

Controls for the balanced distribution of coal, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, sulphuric acid, cement, machine tools, etc., have been introduced on lines similar to those adopted by the Government of India.

Like other coal fields, the State Collieries in Hyderabad suffered from shortage of labour. Steps were taken to meet this difficulty and a special board is at work to explore ways and means of increasing production.

Labour is being attracted by the grant of several amenities like the provision of rice at cheap rates with free medical aid to workers and other healthy inducements. The Government of India sent a large force of workers from Gorakhpur to work in the Hyderabad Collieries and there is a Labour Force recruited from the ranks of the Burma evacuees for occupation in the raising of coal. In passing, it may be mentioned that His Exalted Highness' Government have recently acquired the assets of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company which holds 88% of shares in the Singareni Collieries Co., a step which will strengthen Hyderabad's fuel position not only during the pendency of the war but also in carrying out post-war plans.

At the request of the Government of India, Hyderabad undertook the construction of Aerodrome works and R.A.F. Centres. Both the Public Works Department and the N. S. Railway were put in charge of the task. Between the two, works costing more than Rs. 246 lakhs have been undertaken. The Government of India have entrusted the duties of their upkeep during the war to His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government. Expenditure in building has been incurred at a rate lower than those prevailing elsewhere in India and rigid economy has resulted in savings for the Government of India in construction costs. There are Aerodromes, Training Centres and Maintenance Depots under the charge of the Government besides military buildings for a large number of stations. The full details about sites and establishments cannot be divulged for security reasons but it can be said that in service and efficiency the work undertaken by Hyderabad has been remarkable. A large number of military roads have been laid out to accelerate the progress of war-time traffic. Special schemes of water-supply have been another striking contribution in aid of the Army. Irrigation-works costing Rs. 54 lakhs were quickly executed.

TRANSPORT.

When the war broke out in 1939 the transport system of the State was in a unique position to deal with this emergency. The foundation of an efficient road service operating under the Railway administration had been laid and an air organisation had been brought into being with first-class ground facilities, thus co-ordinating these three forms of transport. After the war scare in 1938, spares to the value of nearly one crore of rupees had been ordered for the Railway and the Road fleet as a precautionary measure.

The State Railways consisting of 1,360 miles of open line occupy a strategic position forming, as they do, a part of important main lines of communication in India. In the earlier days of the war extensive military and industrial sidings were put down in anticipation of an increase in traffic and proved of great value when the pressure on the railways became intensive in course of time. As an illustration of the strain on the railways, it may be mentioned that they have carried nearly double the passenger traffic and over 50% more goods traffic in 1943 than was handled in 1939. Since the beginning of the war well over 2,000 military specials have been handled and many thousands of additional units of coaching stock were attached to ordinary trains. Ten locomotives and 130 covered wagons as also brake vans and mechanical equipment was released for the use of the Defence Department at a critical stage of the war in the Middle East.

In 1943 the Road Services made up chiefly of British diesel engined vehicles operated over a route mileage of 4,250 miles and carried over 18 million passengers and in 1944 the traffic handled has increased still further. To meet the transport requirements of Government for the distribution of food-grains in the Dominions mobile lorry units, complete with tentage, repair facilities, etc., have been operating to carry food to rail heads and urban areas. Six such units—each consisting of 16 vehicles—are now operating and 3 more are being mobilised. The Road Services organisation in co-ordination with the Railway has materially

assisted in the solution of our internal transport problems largely created as a result of the war.

The operation of air services was commenced just before the war but their development was interrupted because the State recognised the paramount need for devoting its extensive ground and maintenance facilities to the war effort. It was foreseen that the training of pilots and ground engineers would be of immense importance to the country and early in 1940 a training school for pilots was opened at Begumpet Airport which later merged into the No. 1 elementary Flying Training School and all training and transport aircraft owned by H.E.H.'s Government were handed over to the Defence Department. Until recently the maintenance of the aircraft for this school was entrusted to the Railway ground staff. A separate organisation was set up for the training of Ground Engineers. The Begumpet Airport which was already equipped with night landing equipment, control offices, administrative buildings, hangars, repair shops and training facilities which included a Link Trainer, has recently been handed over to the Air Force as a temporary measure at the request of the Military authorities.

In addition to these activities it fell upon the Railway administration to co-ordinate the requirements of the Supply Department in relation to the manufacturing capacity in the State and they were responsible for farming out works to workshops like the Mint, the P.W.D., etc. The University workshops were also taken over and a contingent of Czech technicians was utilised by the Railway on highly skilled armament works.

Nearly a million items have been manufactured in the Railway workshops varying in size from trawler steam haulage gear and gun carriage components to tools and aircraft kits, some of which involve highly skilled workmanship. One million and a half man-hours have been devoted to this work. Particularly in the early and difficult days of the war, divisions passing through the area were given considerable assistance in the manufacture of equipment, hauling gear and gun mountings which subsequently proved their worth in active service.

The whole of this work was done on a net cost basis without any margin for profit. A large airground with its many buildings and facilities was constructed in almost a record time. Three existing airgrounds of the State were placed at the disposal of the Defence Department and additional facilities were provided.

In January 1940 a special school was set up in the Road Transport Department and 5,500 Driver-Mechanics have so far been trained for the Indian Army at the cost of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government ; in addition for about 18 months 150 vehicles and instructors were provided every day for the training of army drivers. Technical training centres under the ægis of the Railway administration were set up in June 1940 and have turned out more than 1,700 trained mechanics and artisans. The two larger technical training centres are the Kachiguda workshops and the Osmania Technical College.

A Railway weekly newsletter was started early in 1940 when it was necessary to give authentic information to the staff about the trend of the war so as to keep up their morale in those difficult days. This newsletter, which is issued in three languages, English, Urdu and Telugu, subsequently became so popular that its distribution was extended to district headquarters of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government. To this date, nearly a million and a half copies of this publication have been issued and the weekly circulation has now gone up to 6,300 copies. To serve the same purpose nearly 1,200 propaganda films have been shown at various railway centres.

The voluntary war efforts of the Railway staff include subscriptions for the supply of two Spitfires during the battle of Britain ; weekly entertainment for some 3½ years of about 80 I. O. R.'s and a like number of B. O. R.'s to tea, sport, cinema and an evening meal is a weekly event much appreciated by the troops. Some 20,000 service men have been entertained in this way. Senior officers of the Railway have in past years also entertained troops in their homes and the Railway Women's Organisation have provided mobile canteens and certain amenities to hospitals, which includes more than 20,000 items of Hospital linen.

MILITARY AID.

The services rendered by Hyderabad as part of the Fighting Forces in the present war are considerable. Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, paid Hyderabad the following tribute :—

“ His Exalted Highness has been with the Allies throughout the fluctuations of this arduous struggle with generous help in men, money and materials. His Troops have done sterling service in Malaya, in the Middle East and the squadron which bears Hyderabad's name has shared in the achievement of the R. A. F.”

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester on his visit to Hyderabad sent a message of appreciation to His Exalted Highness in the course of which he said : “ The contributions of Your Exalted Highness and of the people of Hyderabad State to the war effort of India have been magnificent. I have seen the splendid quality of the Hyderabad troops so many of whom are now serving outside the State and several of whom have already won gallantry awards. The Royal Navy and the Royal Indian Navy have ships provided by the generosity of the State and two famous Fighter Squadrons of the R.A.F. are proud of carrying the name and badge of Hyderabad into battle. These are only some of the many ways in which the resources of this State have been freely offered to ensure the victory for the common cause and which proves once more that the proud title of Faithful Ally which Your Exalted Highness bears has been most richly deserved.”

The following units have been placed at the disposal of the Crown for service outside the State :

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. 1st Hyderabad Lancers | (Mechanised) |
| 2. 2nd Hyderabad Lancers | „ |
| 3. ' A ' Battery | „ |
| 4. 1st Battalion, Hyderabad Infantry. | (Prisoners of War in Malaya) |

5. 2nd Battalion, Hyderabad Infantry.
6. 3rd Battalion, Hyderabad Infantry.

They comprise Artillery, Mechanised Cavalry, Infantry and Mechanical Transport Units organised and equipped on the same lines as the Units of the Indian Army. The State also helped to raise the 55 G.P.T. Company and the Hyderabad Garrison Company.

In order to provide the above Units with trained personnel and replace them in the Dominions for Internal Security duties, seven new Units have been raised and several expanded.

TRAINING ON MODERN LINES.

The pre-war training squadrons have undergone expansion and reorganization. Hyderabad now has three modern training centres—an Artillery Training Centre, a Mechanised Cavalry Training Centre and an Infantry Training Centre—organised, armed and equipped for all modern needs. There is also the Army Training School which, in addition to providing central classes for instruction in Weapon Training, Signal Training, Physical Training and Educational Training, also trains cadets to become Officers and Sub-Commissioned Officers. In order to train all troops of the Regular Forces for active service on modern battle-fields, courses in modern Battle Craft have also been started.

Training of men for service both in the Dominions and outside is done on modern lines. Full advantage is taken of all Courses of Instruction in British India. Several Hyderabad Officers have received training at the Staff Officers College and the Tactical School. Many Officers, Sub-Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers have attended Courses of Instruction at the Artillery School, the Armoured Fighting Vehicles School, the Infantry School and also in Camouflage, Intelligence, Mechanized Transport, Security, etc. Many have attended courses in various technical subjects as well.

Particular attention is paid to the selection of Officers. Candidates are tested by the State Interview and Record Board as well as by a G.H.Q. (I.) Selection Board. The successful ones are then sent up for training to one of the Indian Army Training Schools. Similar care is taken in the selection and training of Sub-Commissioned Officers.

The Army Transport Company, the Divisional Pioneers and the Army Medical Service have also been expanded and reorganised to meet modern requirements. Latest armaments and equipment, including Armoured Fighting Vehicles and Mechanical Transport, have been acquired.

Reorganization of the Nazm-e-Jamiath has also been undertaken with the object of fitting it for work of Internal Security.

To deal more efficiently with the work entailed by the modernisation of the Army, a scheme for the expansion of the H.Q. Regular Forces has been sanctioned.

The above activities necessitated the construction of three new sets of Units barracks, which have been completed. Several additions and alterations have also been made to the existing lines. The Central Military Hospital, opened by Her Highness the Princess of Berar in 1940, is an up-to-date institution with all modern equipments.

A Central Soldiers' Board, with branches in most of the districts of the State, has been functioning for over two years to look after the interests of serving and retired soldiers and their families.

The Hyderabad Soldiers Relief Association has been formed to provide help to serving and retired personnel of the Regular Forces and the Nazm-e-Jamiath and to foster a spirit of good-will and co-operation amongst all serving and retired soldiers of the State.

Welfare work among soldiers and the work of preparing them for post-war conditions are receiving due attention. Child Welfare is included among the activities of the various Military Hospitals. A scheme for the establishment of three

separate Child Welfare Centres in each of the main Military areas has been sanctioned and one of these Centres has already been opened.

The total amount spent since the beginning of war for equipping the Army for war purposes amounts to Rs. 81.73 lakhs.

Facilities are given to Allied Forces within the Dominions and in return they have welcomed the participation of state troops in their exercises. Facilities are also given to the personnel of the British and Indian Armies to visit places of interest in Hyderabad. British and Indian Troops are widely entertained and subscriptions to the various funds intended for the benefit of the British and Indian Armies are also generously contributed.

The War Services of Hyderabad Officers have earned for them the following honours :—

O.B.I. —Risaldar Major (Hon. Capt.) Zorawar Khan (2nd class).

M.C.	..	Lt. Hasting Adams.	} For service with the first Battalion in Malaya.
I.D.M.S.	..	S/M Shaik Mohammed.	
I.D.S.M.	..	Jamedar Shaik Ahmed.	
I.O.M. (2nd Class)		L/NK Zabihulla Khan.	

In order to supply tea, wheat *chapatis* and cigarettes, free of cost, to military detachments passing through H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions, Canteens have been opened at five important Railway Stations, namely, Secunderabad, Kazipet, Raichur, Jalna and Aurangabad as a token of friendly feelings of the people of Hyderabad towards Military Units. Secunderabad and Aurangabad are British Cantonments and Jalna, a temporary British Military Station; while Raichur and Kazipet are important junctions on the railway route between Madras and Bombay and Madras and Delhi respectively.

The Working Committee of the Hyderabad War Purposes Fund donated a sum of Rs. 4,000 for the initial expenses of organising these Canteens. Secunderabad, Kazipet and Raichur Canteens were opened in September 1942, the Aur-

angabad Canteen in November 1942 and the Jalna canteen was opened in the beginning of 1944.

The average number of soldiers served per day at these canteens is approximately as under :—

		Soldiers.
Secunderabad	..	..250
Kazipet	..	..200
Raichur	..	..200
Aurangabad	..	..100
Jalna	..	..100

The expenses of these Canteens are borne by public subscription. It has been calculated that a sum of Rs. 5,000 per month is spent on all the five Canteens. This amount is raised locally by Revenue Officials with the help of local war committees.

MAINTAINING THE HOME FRONT.

Certain activities for the maintenance of the Home Front have already been referred to in previous pages, but much more has been done for the orderly control of production and distribution so that domestic *morale* may be maintained on a high level. Hyderabad has always been a deficit unit in respect of rice, wheat and jaggery (among articles of food), cloth and various other consumers' goods. The impact of the war and the scarcity of transport diminished the flow of essential imports, and by the beginning of 1943 the tendency to hoard and profiteer became pronounced. Some of the steps taken to check it had immediate effect and the assurance of public tranquillity gave the right atmosphere for Hyderabad's war effort. The Hyderabad Commercial Corporation Ltd. began work in February 1943. With the object of defeating the profit-mongers and the hoarders so far as food-grains and cloth were concerned, the Government financed this corporation, advancing it about Rs. 6 crores. It is run on commercial lines but there is no intention to make a profit out of its service as an agent of the Government in the Supply Department for procurement, storage, transport, exports and imports of food-grains. It also handles Standard Cloth.

The Supply Department came into being in September 1943. It comes under the Revenue and Police Portfolio with a full-time Director-General who has under him the Director of Food Supplies, the Director of Rationing, the Textile Commissioner, the Controller of Civil Supplies and a special Publicity Officer. The policy of price control has saved the consumer from exploitation. With regard to exports and imports, Hyderabad sends out to other parts of India as much as she could spare and obtains from other parts of India, in the minimum quantity possible, such commodities as she needs to make up local deficits. Under appropriate Ordinances, the wholesalers, big cultivators, retailers and consumers keep the authorities informed about the quantity and location of stocks in their hands. Big cultivators and wholesalers are bound to obtain licences for the disposal of their stock. Procurement is done through direct purchases from cultivators and open market purchases, requisitioning being done only in special cases. Care has been taken to ensure equitable distribution. Co-operative Societies or reliable retailers licensed for the purpose are utilised as channels of distribution. Encouragement is given to private merchants to maintain normal routine.

In the case of textiles and civil supplies price control is effected partly through licences and partly through the enforcement of anti-hoarding and stock-taking orders by surprise checks, raids and frequent inspections.

The current statutory ceilings in Hyderabad compare thus with the prices prevailing in the neighbouring provinces :

	Hyderabad			Bombay			Madras			C.P.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Rice	..	9	2 3	11	8	0	7	13	5	10	6	9
Jowar	..	6	0 0	7	0	3	8	3	8	8	4	0
Bajra	..	6	4 3	7	9	6	6	10	8	..		

In addition to food-grains, there is control over the prices of sugar and gur also which is exercised more or less on the same lines as in the case of food-grains. The retail prices

announced for Hyderabad City are as follows :—

Sugar	..	1 seer 14 chhataks per rupee.
Gur	..	3½ seers per rupee.
Red Sugar	..	2½ seers per rupee.

How the various food Orders were enforced during 1353 Fasli would be seen from the following figures which relate to the districts only :—

		Prosecuted	Convicted	Acquitted
Hoarding	.. ..	4,115	2,411	282
Smuggling	.. ..	625	409	61
Selling above prescribed rates	.. ..	267	207	16
Other offences	..	1,061	973	15
		6,061	4,000	454

Mention has already been made of the share of Hyderabad in the Grow-More-Food campaign which was supported by the judicious distribution of seed and the supply of manure to the ryots. A further incentive was given to the cultivator by a 50% remission of land revenue for lands diverted from cotton to food-crops. Waste lands were put under the plough with concessions granted to the peasants in the matter of land revenue. Loans were advanced interest-free and in the purchase of seed and manure a remission of 25 per cent. of the cost price was given as additional inducement. Lands irrigated by the reservoirs were earmarked exclusively for food-crops. In the rendering of such auxiliary aids the Government spent Rs. 33 lakhs and about 810 tanks capable of irrigating 56,760 acres were repaired. A striking increase has been achieved in the production of potato with the result that large quantities have been supplied to the Indian Army and also sold in the local market. The growth of other vegetables has been stimulated with State support.

The consumer has been the first care of the State and goods in common use were brought under price control and the

cash memo system to enforce prices was brought into vogue. The problem of food and cloth was faced by the Government of His Exalted Highness in time, and official measures corresponding to the steps taken by Control Orders in British India have been in operation. Standard cloth received to the end of September, 1944, mounted to 266 lakh yards for distribution. Similar measures to ration essentials like Petrol, tyres and tubes were also brought into force and the spirit of economy was preached and spread among the masses who had come to realise that in a period of war and national danger the common citizen must unselfishly support the endeavours of the State.

The present war and its antecedents have brought to the fore the power of propaganda. Upon the principle that the best propaganda is the dissemination of the truth, His Exalted Highness' Government organised their publicity measures which are largely carried on by the Departments of Information and Broadcasting. War Committees, both urban and rural, were formed in order to acquaint the people at large with the aims and objects of the war. In India false rumours and panic are apt to undermine morale and therefore steps taken to counter them constitute an essential part of the war effort. Besides keeping itself in contact with the Press, the Information Bureau have published more than 700,000 copies of 686 pamphlets, leaflets and posters relating to the war. In English, Urdu, Telugu, Marathi and Canarese, the public mind was addressed and the policy has been found successful. Topical articles, hundreds of them in number concerning the war, were furnished to the local press while communiques, Press Notes, Notifications and matters relating to the war and Hyderabad's war effort were handed out to editors and published. Both in His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Dominions and outside extensive publicity is obtained through the medium of *Hyderabad Information* which regularly circulates over a wide area and is printed in Urdu, Telugu, Marathi, Canares and English. Equal in importance has been the service of the Broadcasting Department which put out talks, useful write-ups, and entertainment features. Talks on world affairs, and current

home events have proved a happy medium of instruction. A series of talks on "War and Hyderabad" was put on the air. Special attention was paid to programmes for the entertainment of people living in Cantonments.

To enlist public support in the maintenance of tranquillity and the prevention of mischievous activities, the Hyderabad Dominions Public Security Committee was formed with branches in all parts of the Dominions irrespective of party affiliations to serve as an instrument of public education and prevention of defeatist notions. There are non-official workers who organise meetings and spread correct information touching the progress of the war and the issues involved. Publications are also issued, and conferences periodically held, to enable people at large to realise what is at stake and the responsibility of every subject of the Hyderabad State to do his best unselfishly for the common cause. These non-official activities have been of help in composing local disputes, labour strikes and also in mitigating discontent over the casual scarcity of goods and high prices. The relatives of soldiers on active service receive special attention and Her Highness the Princess of Berar is directing the Women's War Work Committee. Public *morale* depends on leadership. The people of Hyderabad have before them the personal example of His Exalted Highness and his appeals to soldiers abroad and civilians at home have strengthened the determination of Hyderabad to see that the reputation of their Ruler as the Faithful Ally gains fresh lustre. In a memorable broadcast His Exalted Highness addressed the soldiers who happen to fall in the hands of the enemy.

"I wish to convey to you wherever you may happen to be" said His Exalted Highness "the expression of my admiration for all your brave services and the assurance that those whom you have left behind you are being well looked after. I look forward with eagerness to the day which, God willing, may not be far off, when you will return home after victory to which your own heroism and sacrifice will have doubtless contributed in many ways."

Similarly, His Highness the Prince of Berar in one of his talks to the Hyderabad Army said: "As you are all aware

hard and bitter fighting is still ahead and I would only say in this connection that there would be no slackening of the war effort on the part of the Faithful Ally of the British Crown till victory is achieved."

The Hyderabad Women's Civil Defence Corps is led by Her Highness the Princess of Berar. Walashan Prince Moazzam Jah Bahadur himself moved the principal resolution at a public meeting calling for support of the Hyderabad War Relief Fund while Princess Niloufer has set an inspiring example in the endeavours made for the comfort of troops.

Hyderabad is thoroughly identified with Britain in the war effort and is carrying out the obligations of friendship without counting the cost. This attitude has been repeatedly explained by His Excellency the President of H.E.H. the Nizam's Executive Council, and the position cannot be better explained than in his own words. Here is a quotation from the speech of His Excellency the President, the Nawab Saheb of Chhatari, delivered on April 2, 1944, at a function held in honour of the Commander-in-Chief as chief guest.

"His Exalted Highness has always looked upon this war as his own and his Government and people are at one with him. These ties, coupled with the bonds of an alliance contracted over 200 years ago which is as effective now as then, are not of monetary consequence ; they have stood the test of time and are likely to be strengthened all the more and to mutual advantage in the days to come."

And when in the fullness of time the struggle is over and victory is won, the contribution of Hyderabad will remain a memorable link in the bonds of friendship that for the last 200 years have entitled her to the proud position of Britain's Faithful Ally.

